Union Territory Administrations have generally taken steps on the above lines. The Central Government has also strengthened arrangements for monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities. Meetings have been held with representatives of trade and industry urging them to take steps for containment of the prices.

Elimination of bonded labour system

446. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are five billion bonded labourers at present and that fifty thousand of them are in a chronic state of bondage in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any new scheme to remove this system from the country; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Governments, 2,21,806 bonded labourers have been identified and released upto 31st December, 1987.

(c) and (d) State Governments have been advised to take steps to identify, release and rehabilitate all bonded labour. A Centrally sponsored scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour is in operation. A new Plan Scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in identification and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been launched from 30-10-1987.

Shortage of CR and HR sheets in Tamil Nadu

447. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel furniture manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu are facing threat of closure due to shortage of CR and HR sheets;

(b) what is the quantum of supply of these sheets to the steel furniture manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu by the SAIL and SIDCO; and

(c) whether any representation was also made to Government recently by the South India Steel Furniture Manufacturer's Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government of Tamil Nadu have brought this to the notice of the Department of Steel.

(b) The quantity supplied to the steel furniture manufacturing units exclusively is not maintained separately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

हिन्दी भाषा का प्रसार

448. **श्री रामचन्द्र विकल :** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "क" और "ख" क्षेत्रों में राजभाषा अधिनियम की पूर्णत: अवहेलना करते हुए अंग्रेजी रोमन लिपि के कम्प्यूटरों, टैलेक्स मशीनों और टेलीप्रिंटरों जैसे दर्जनों आधुनिक यंत्रों के आगमन और अबाधित प्रयोग के फलस्वरूप हिन्दी के प्रसार का कार्य वर्षों पीछे पड़ गया है और जहां भी टेलेक्स मशीनें लगायी गई हैं वहां से